

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /132 W
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R 151215Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4770

INFO SECDEF

USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, EG, IS

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS OF US AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE
OF MIDDLE EAST BATTLE AREA

1. BRITISH TV AND RADIO CARRIED REPORTS FROM CAIRO
SOURCES EVENING OF OCTOBER 13 AND THROUGHOUT THE DAY
ON OCTOBER 14 TO EFFECT THAT EGYPTIANS HAD DETECTED US
RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT CONDUCTING SURVEILLANCE IN EGYPT-
IAN AIRSPACE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, CAIRO ALLEGEDLY
PROTESTED TO USG. NEWSCASTS DESCRIBED AIRCRAFT AS
SR-71 WHICH, CAIRO REPORTEDLY STATED, IS TYPE OWNED ONLY
BY US.

2. DAILY TELEGRAPH OF OCTOBER 15 CARRIES LONG ARTICLE
ENTITLED "KREMLIN AND US IN BATTLE OF MISSILES"
ACCOMPANIED BY PHOTOGRAPH OF A SR-71A WHICH IS DESCRIBED
AS TYPE WHICH EGYPT CLAIMED VIOLATED EGYPTIAN AIRSPACE
FOR 25 MINUTES ON OCTOBER 15 AS A "CLEAR AND DIRECT
PROVOCATION." DT ASSERTS THAT TWO OF THE AIRCRAFT WERE
SAID TO HAVE BROKEN THE SOUND BARRIER OVER CAIRO BEFORE
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HEADING EAST TOWARDS SINAI.

3. DT ARTICLE STATES THAT MASTERY OF ELECTRONIC WARFARE MAY WELL BE A DECISIVE FACTOR IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAR, WHERE THE LATEST RUSSIAN WEAPONS AND AMERICAN COUNTER-MEASURES ARE UNDERGOING CRUCIAL TESTS. THE TWO AMERICAN RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT WHICH FLEW OVER EGYPT DURING THE WEEKEND WERE, DT SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT WRITES, UNDOUBTEDLY PART OF THIS TOP SECRET ELECTRONIC WARFARE BEING FOUGHT BETWEEN RUSSIAN MISSILES AND AMERICAN ANTI-MISSILE RADAR EXPERTS BEHIND ALMOST IMPENETRABLE SECURITY CURTAINS.

4. DT ARTICLE GOES ON TO STATE THAT THE GREAT CHALLENGE TO AMERICAN AND ISRAELI RADAR EXPERTS IS TO FOIL THE THE ELECTRONIC GUIDANCE OF SOVIET-SUPPLIED MISSILES HELD BY ARABS. IN CARRYING OUT THESE ECM'S US STILL RELY LARGELY ON RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT, ALTHOUGH SATELLITES ARE DOUBTLESS IN FULL USE DURING THE PRESENT WAR. DT DISCUSSES IN DETAIL THE CHARACTERISTICS AND MISSION OF FERRET SATELLITES, ASSERTING THAT ONE CLASS OF FERRET WHICH CAN MAKE DETAILED ANALYSIS OF RUSSIAN RADAR INSTALLATIONS IS UNDOUBTEDLY BEING USED BY THE US OVER SINAI. IT WAS THE TASK OF THE TWO AMERICAN RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT WHICH OVERFLEW EGYPT TO CARRY OUT ELINT SIMILAR TO THAT PERFORMED BY SATELLITES. THE KIND OF MISSION THE RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT FLEW IS HIGHLY DANGEROUS, DT NOTES, AS THE RADAR SIGNALS FROM THE RUSSIAN MISSILES CAN ONLY BE RECORDED WHEN THEY ARE ACTUALLY FIRED.

5. DEPARTMENT PASS TO ME POSTS AS DESIRED

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